

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BONN 12128 010950Z
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-11 AID-05 /082 W
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R 301840Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9846
INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USNATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 12128

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PEPR, PINR, TS, GW
SUBJECT: MENZEL BOURGUIBA: FRG DEMARCHE

REFS: A) STATE 137986; B) BONN 1355

1. THE FOREIGN OFFICE CONFIRMS THAT THE FRG AMBASSADOR IN TUNIS UNDERTOOK THE DEMARCHE (ON MAY 20) ON SOVIET USE OF MENZEL BOURGUIBA AS WE HAD REQUESTED.
 2. THE FRG AMBASSADOR OBSERVED THAT THE US HAD ALREADY MADE ITS VIEWS ON THE SUBJECT KNOWN AND ADDED THAT SOVIET USE OF THE TUNISIAN FACILITIES AFFECTED FRG SECURITY AS WELL. THE TUNISIANS REITERATED THEIR NON-ALIGNMENT AND STATED THAT MENZEL BOURGUIBA WAS OPEN FOR USE BY ALL FRIENDLY COUNTRIES. IN THE TUNISIAN VIEW, IT WAS NOT INAPPROPRIATE TO OFFER THESE FACILITIES TO THE SOVIETS
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"FROM TIME TO TIME." NEVERTHELESS, THEY PROMISED TO TAKE NATO CONCERNS INTO ACCOUNT.

3. THE FOREIGN OFFICE BELIEVES THAT THE TUNISIANS WILL INDEED MAKE SOME EFFORT TO ALAY NATO CONCERNS AND INTERPRETS THE DECREASE IN SOVIET SHIP VISITS THIS YEAR AS THE TRUEST INDICATION OF TUNISIAN

REACTION.

4. COMMENT. PRIOR TO OUR JANUARY 20 DEMARCHE TO THE FOREIGN OFFICE, THE FRG MILITARY ATTACHE HAD RAISED THE SUBJECT OF SOVIET ACCESS WITH THE TUNISIAN MINISTRY OF DEFENSE. WE UNDERSTAND THAT THE TUNISIAN AMBASSADOR, WHEN INFORMED OF OUR DEMARCHE, FELT THAT IT WOULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE TO RAISE THE ISSUE AGAIN. THE FOREIGN OFFICE, HOWEVER, INSISTED AND SENT FIRM INSTRUCTIONS THAT HE RAISE THE SUBJECT PERSONALLY AT A SENIOR LEVEL IN THE TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT WHICH HE HAS NOW DONE.
STOESSEL

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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